

[Abkhaz]

Georgia RI 1

AZERBAIDZHAN

Azerbaijan RK 1

[BAKU]

khazia was ordered to increase considerably its tobacco production.^{S.U.} Since the population of Abkhazia as it was at that time, and the small⁵⁶³ Abkhazian people in particular, could not possibly have coped with the⁶² targets assigned to them by the Five-Year Plan, more Russians, Georg-⁵⁶³ians, Armenians and Greeks had to be brought into the republic. ⁶³⁵ (67)

It mattered little to the Abkhazians whether the new influx of foreign elements into their country was effected in the name of socialist planning and 'specialization', or in that of nationalist expansion. Fearing for the future of their people, Abkhazian communists demanded that the Abkhazians who had emigrated to Turkey under the Czarist régime should be brought back and take the place of the non-Abkhazian colonists. It is no wonder then that, in consequence, Soviet publications started complaining about Abkhazian resistance.³³

In the end the Abkhazians fell completely into disgrace with the Kremlin. Paradoxically enough, the leaders of the people whom Stalin had shielded against encroachments by Georgian nationalists became involved in an alleged plot aiming at assassinating their 'protector'. The Abkhazian Bolshevik leader, Nestor Lakoba, was fortunate enough to die a natural death in 1936, for in the following year he might have been the central figure in a plot trial held in the Abkhazian capital, Sukhum. Most of the forty-seven defendants charged with having attempted to murder Stalin were Lakoba's friends, relatives and collaborators. Ten of them were executed.

The 'liquidation' of 'the Abkhazian nationalists in Bolshevik disguise' cleared the way for further Georgian colonization in Abkhazia. After the Second World War a special Resettlement Board of the Tiflis Government gave grants to Georgian collective farmers settling down along the Black Sea shore in the Abkhazian coastal districts of Gagry, Gudauti and Ochamchiri.³⁴

III. AZERBAIDZHAN

BAKU - THE OIL CITY

Whilst Georgia fell into the hands of the Russians like a ripe fruit, the^{S.U.} establishment of Russian rule over Azerbaidzhan was a very protracted¹⁷⁵ affair. The conquest of Azerbaidzhan was in fact one of the most diffi-⁶³⁶cult and costly enterprises in the entire subjugation of Transcaucasia. ^{AZ.} The first Russian conqueror of Azerbaidzhan's future capital, Baku, was ¹⁷⁵the leader of lawless Cossack bands from the Don, Ataman Stenka Razin, one of the greatest rebels against the authority of the Czar. The second conqueror of Baku was Russia's greatest Czar, Peter I. ^{S.U.}

The fact that Peter's general, Matyushkin, brought Baku, in 1723, for ¹⁷⁵twelve years under Russian rule, is, perhaps, less important than the ⁶³⁶